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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,314	03/12/2004	Yukihiko Sakashita	03560.002727.1	5802

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHU K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2628

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/798,314	Applicant(s) SAKASHITA ET AL.	
	Examiner Phu K. Nguyen	Art Unit 2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 44-49, 53-57 and 59 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37, 39-43, 51, 52 and 58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/760,649.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


PHU K. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2300

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 37, 39-43, 50-52, and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ANDERSON (6,215,523) in view of BAHL et al. (7,020,475).

As per claim 41, and similar claim 37, Anderson teaches the "image display device", comprising:

"selection means for selecting an image signal to be displayed as a main image from the plurality of image signals input via said plurality of input terminals"

(Anderson, the scrennail image 704 in figure 8 is a medium version of the original image; column 7, lines 56-65); "compression means for compressing the other image signals not selected by the selection means" (Anderson, the thumbnail images 700 in figure 8 are smallest version of the original image – the compression is the reduction in resolution of the original image; column 7, lines 51-55, column 9, lines 36-49);

"combining means for combining the selected image signal and the other image signals compressed by the compression means into a resultant image; and displaying means for displaying the resultant image on a screen of a display device" (Anderson, figure 8 of the result image). It is noted that Anderson does not teach the wireless inputting of image signals or "a plurality of input terminals for inputting a plurality of image signals

via a wireless network from a plurality of terminal devices, respectively". However, the technology at the time the image was made allows the wireless inputting of image signals as claimed (Bahl, column 4, lines 25-42; the wireless communication network). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of the teaching of Bahl, to use a wireless communication network to supply image data to the computer terminals for the purpose of providing information and sharing resources of remote systems (Bahl, column 4, lines 36-39; Anderson, column 4, lines 48-55).

Claim 42 adds into claim 41, and similar claim 39, "memory means for storing modes of the respective image signals" (Anderson, the screennail mode and the thumbnail mode; figure 6); and "conversion means for converting modes of the respective image signals input via the input terminals into a mode suitable for said display device to display the image signals on the basis of the modes stored in said memory means" (Anderson, column 6, line 48 to column 7, line 41).

Claim 43 adds into claim 41, and similar claim 40, "decision means for determining one of the plurality of terminal devices as a master terminal device and the remaining terminal devices as slave terminal devices" (Anderson, the external host computer for providing the image signals; column 5, lines 29-34), wherein, an image signal transmitted from the terminal determined as the master terminal device by said decision means is selected as the main image signal among the image signals which

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are combined and displayed on the screen of said display device" (Anderson, the selected image is read from the image data stored in the RAM disk 532 are remotely provided from the host computer).

Claims 50-52 claim a method whose steps perform the functions based on the system of claims 41-43; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

Claim 58 claims a storage medium storing computer instruction to perform the function of the system of claim 41 (Anderson, column 4, lines 56-59); therefore, it is rejected under the same reason.

Claim 38 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: where an image signal period of image signal transmitted from at least transmitting and receiving means of said plurality of terminal devices is represented by T, a transmission period of an image signal selected as a main image from the image signals combined and displayed on the screen of the display device is represented by T1, a number of image signals which are combined and displayed on the same screen of the display device and which are not selected as the main image is represented by n,

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and a constant k is given, the parameters T , T_1 , n , and k are set such that the following equation is satisfied: $T_1 = kT/(n + k)$.

Due to the new ground of the rejection cited above, this action has been made NON-FINAL.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phu K. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272 7645. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (571) 272 7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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Phu K. Nguyen

June 20, 2006


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